

In The Claims

Please amend claims 2, 39, and 45 and cancel claims 21-29, as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of conducting electronic commerce, the method comprising:

opening a user account with a first vendor for a user;
issuing one or more electronic tokens from the first vendor to the user, and adding the one or more electronic tokens issued by the first vendor to the user account;

providing products and services that may be purchased through the first vendor, wherein prices for the products and services are listed in units of electronic tokens;

permitting the user to select a subset of the products and services for purchase;

computing a total price for the selected subset of the products and services in units of electronic tokens;

if the user account contains electronic tokens having a value equal to or greater than the total price, permitting the user to purchase the selected subset of the products and services, and subtracting the total price from the user account;

permitting the user to exchange a first group of electronic tokens in the user's account that were issued from the first vendor for a second group of electronic tokens issued by a second vendor;

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase products through the second vendor using the second group of electronic tokens issued by the second vendor, wherein prices for the products are listed in units of electronic tokens; and

transferring compensation from the first vendor to the second vendor that is equal to the value of the first group of tokens.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting electronic commerce transactions with a merchant comprising:

- receiving a request for an electronic commerce transaction with a vendor from a user using a client device;
- registering the user with the vendor;
- determining whether the user has ~~an account that permits the user to conduct electronic commerce transactions with adequate funds to finance the purchase of electronic tokens from the vendor, the electronic tokens being issued and redeemable by the vendor, each of the electronic tokens having a predetermined nominal value, the purchased electronic tokens being stored after purchase in a user account with the vendor;~~
- determining whether the user has ~~an account balance exceeding a predetermined amount sufficient~~ a sufficient number of electronic tokens in the user account to cover a purchase of at least one of a plurality of products or services offered by the vendor, ~~wherein determining whether the user has an account balance exceeding a predetermined amount is performed after registering is completed;~~
- enabling the user to order at least one of the plurality of products or services offered by the vendor if a determination is made that the user's account balance ~~exceeds the predetermined amount~~ contains a sufficient number of electronic tokens;
- enabling the user to make a purchase selection from amongst the plurality of products or services offered by the

vendor, the purchase price being set at an integer multiple of the electronic tokens;

transmitting a confirmation to the user summarizing the electronic commerce transaction; and

electronically delivering the purchase selection to the user;

wherein the receiving, determining, enabling, transmitting, and delivering are each performed by a vendor server computer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising establishing the account.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of electronically delivering includes transmitting an authorization code.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

requesting account information from the user if a determination is made that the user has no account that permits the user to conduct electronic commerce transactions with the vendor; and

receiving the account information from the client device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising preventing the user from viewing a portion of information relating to the plurality of products or services offered by the vendor if a determination is made that the user has an account balance less than the predetermined amount.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising preventing the user from viewing a portion of information relating to the plurality of products or services offered by the vendor if a determination is made that the user has no account that permits the user to conduct electronic commerce transactions with the vendor.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising presenting the user with descriptions of the plurality of products or services.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising updating the account balance based on the purchase selection.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising enabling the user to confirm the purchase selection.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for conducting electronic commerce transactions with a merchant comprising:

receiving at a first server, a request for an electronic commerce transaction with a merchant from a user using a client device;

enabling the user to select an item for purchase from the merchant;

presenting the user with a description of the item from the first server;

enabling the user to confirm a purchase of the item using a second server;

determining an identity of the user; and

providing the user with a summary of the electronic commerce transaction; and

electronically transmitting an authorization code from the first server to the client device, wherein the authorization code enables the user to electronically receive the item.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising registering the user with a service provider using the second server.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, further comprising requesting at least one of personal information and payment information from the user.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, further comprising maintaining a record of the electronic commerce transaction.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing a database for storing the record.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising authenticating the user.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the description comprises at least one of a title, size, estimated download time, payment information, and price of the item.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

prior to enabling the user to select an item for purchase from the merchant, enabling the user to identify an account to be used to pay for the purchase; and enabling the user to add funds to the account.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

during enabling the user to add funds to the account, obtaining a credit status for the user; and

determining whether to approve addition of funds to the account based on the credit status for the user.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising notifying the user regarding whether the purchase was approved.

21.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A method for conducting electronic commerce transactions with a vendor comprising:

determining whether a user has an account that permits the user to conduct electronic commerce transactions with the vendor;

enabling the user using the client device to browse a plurality of downloadable software files offered by the vendor;

receiving a request from the user to make a purchase selection from amongst the plurality of downloadable software files offered by the vendor;

determining whether the user has an account balance exceeding a predetermined amount sufficient to cover the purchase selection;

providing a confirmation to the user summarizing the electronic commerce transaction;

electronically delivering the purchase selection to the user; and

electronically delivering an authorization code that is employed in conjunction with the downloadable software files offered by the vendor.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising requesting at least one of personal information and payment information from the user.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, further comprising maintaining a record of the electronic commerce transaction.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, further comprising providing a database for storing the record.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising authenticating the user.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the description comprises at least one of a title, size, estimated download time, payment information, and price of the item.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

prior to enabling the user to select an item for purchase from the merchant, enabling the user to identify an account to be used to pay for the purchase; and

enabling the user to add funds to the account.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

during enabling the user to add funds to the account, obtaining a credit status for the user; and

determining whether to approve addition of funds to the account based on the credit status for the user.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising notifying the user regarding whether the purchase was approved.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting electronic commerce transactions with a vendor comprising:

registering a user with a vendor;

determining whether the user has ~~an account that permits the user to conduct electronic commerce transactions with~~ adequate funds to finance the purchase of electronic tokens from the vendor, the electronic tokens being issued and redeemable by the vendor, each of the electronic tokens having a predetermined nominal value, the purchased electronic tokens being stored in a user account with the vendor;

receiving a request for information regarding a selected one of plurality of products or services offered by [[a]] the vendor from a user using a client device;

receiving a request from the user to make a purchase selection from amongst the plurality of products or services offered by the vendor;

determining whether the user has ~~an account balance exceeding a predetermined amount sufficient~~ a sufficient number of electronic tokens in the user account to cover a purchase of

at least one of a plurality of products or services offered by the vendor, the purchase price being set at an integer multiple of the electronic tokens ~~wherein determining whether the user has an account balance exceeding a predetermined amount is performed after registering is completed;~~

enabling the user using the client device to order a plurality of products or services offered by the vendor if a determination is made that the user's account balance exceeds the predetermined amount contains a sufficient number of electronic tokens;

transmitting a confirmation to the user summarizing the electronic commerce transaction; and

electronically delivering the purchase selection to the user;

wherein the receiving, determining, enabling, transmitting, and delivering are each performed by a vendor server computer.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising requesting at least one of personal information and payment information from the user.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising maintaining a record of the electronic commerce transaction.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising providing a database for storing the record.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising authenticating the user.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the description comprises at least one of a title, size, estimated download time, payment information, and price of the item.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

prior to enabling the user to select an item for purchase from the ~~merchant~~ vendor, enabling the user to identify an account to be used to pay for the purchase; and
enabling the user to add funds to the account.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

during enabling the user to add funds to the account, obtaining a credit status for the user; and
determining whether to approve addition of funds to the account based on the credit status for the user.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising notifying the user regarding whether the purchase was approved.

48. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of enabling the user to trade at least some of the electronic tokens with another user.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the vendor receives a commission from the trade between the users.

50. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the user provides personal information to the vendor upon the purchase of

the electronic tokens, and wherein the personal information is fed into a user database.

51. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of creating commercial agreements between different vendors, wherein the electronic tokens issued by a first vendor are accepted for payment by a second vendor.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the electronic tokens are accepted for payment by the second vendor at a discount.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of establishing an interpayment system between the first and second vendors to account for purchases at the second vendor with electronic tokens issued by the first vendor.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the user provides personal information to the first vendor upon the purchase of the electronic tokens, wherein the personal information is fed into a user database of the first vendor, and wherein the second vendor has access to the user database.